Inhaled Isotonic Saline for Bronchiolitis

To the Editor I read with interest the meta-analysis by House et al1 showing that inhaled isotonic saline may have a beneficial therapeutic effect in bronchiolitis. While I am glad that they included our study2 in their analysis, I wish to point out that a novel element of our study was the use of a physiologic outcome measure to assess response to inhaled albuterol and isotonic saline, namely, respiratory inductance plethysmography (RIP).2,3 We observed no significant changes in the variables assessed by House et al1 (respiratory rate, oxygen saturation, and respiratory distress assessment index). However, 30% of albuterol-treated infants and 40% of isotonic saline–treated infants demonstrated a significant decrease in the phase angle, an indication of decreased airflow obstruction following treatment. Our results provide physiologic evidence for a potential beneficial effect of inhaled isotonic saline and further support the need for research studies into the role of inhaled isotonic saline in the treatment of viral bronchiolitis. Respiratory inductance plethysmography, which does not require sedation, may be able to serve as an noninvasive objective physiologic measure for such studies. Although improvement in respiratory mechanics may not affect outcomes, such as length of stay, it is likely that an improvement in work of breathing can reduce symptoms of dyspnea and improve patient comfort, both of which are desirable treatment goals.

Clement L. Ren, MD, MBA

Author Affiliation: Department of Pediatrics, Riley Hospital for Children, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis.

Corresponding Author: Clement L. Ren, MD, MBA, Department of Pediatrics, Riley Hospital for Children, Indiana University School of Medicine, 705 Riley Hospital Way, Indianapolis, IN 46202 (clren@iu.edu).

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Editorial Note: This letter was shown to the corresponding author of the original article, who declined to reply on behalf of the authors.


CORRECTION

Error in Figure 1: In the Original Investigation “Association Between Fexofenadine Use During Pregnancy and Fetal Outcomes,” published online June 1, 2020,1 there was an error in Figure 1. The flow diagram exclusion box given as “4851 Excluded (defects of known causes)” should have been “4851 Excluded (due to missing birthweight).” This article was corrected online.


Error in Abstract: In the Original Investigation “Survival Among Infants Born at 22 or 23 Weeks’ Gestation Following Active Prenatal and Postnatal Care,” published July 5, 2016,1 there was an error in the second to last sentence of the Results section of the abstract. “Twenty-two infants” survived without severe complications, not “Eighty-five infants.” This article was corrected online.